

August 25 2003

**Public Notice for 401 Certification**  
**Wolf Creek Salmonid Habitat Improvement Project**  
**Sonoma County**

On August 25, 2003 the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Hawk Rosales, on behalf of the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council (Council), requesting approval for disturbances to waters of the State and other water quality impacts associated with the development of the proposed project.

The proposed project is located within the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park property and the adjacent InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness property within the riparian zone of Wolf Creek (shown as Jackass Creek on the USGS 7.5' Bear Harbor quad map). The purpose of the project is to improve the quality and quantity of instream habitat for juvenile and adult salmonids by reducing sediment deliveries and enhancing refugia and spawning habitat.

The proposed project consists of flood plain restoration and reconnection, pool creation through placement of digger logs, and maintenance of previously constructed instream structures; separate treatments will take place on the State Park property and the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness property.

Within the State Park property, the following treatments will take place: At two sites, flood plain will be restored/reconnected. Heavy equipment will be utilized to create floodplain where only vertical banks presently exist. The newly created floodplain at each of the two sites will be approximately 10 feet by 60 feet and 10 feet by 80 feet, respectively. At the request of State Parks, the excavated materials at these two sites will be placed on nearby benches away from the riparian zone and blended into nearby hillsides, or will be removed from the area and used as slope fill in a separate nearby watershed restoration/road removal project. To facilitate in the sites' re-vegetation, the topsoil layer containing native seeds will be used to mulch the newly exposed soils and will be spread using hand tools. During the winter months, the newly created floodplains will be planted with willow from adjoining stands.

To create new pool habitat, digger logs will be placed at seven sites. Heavy equipment will be utilized at seven sites to place digger logs and the associated anchor logs. At no time will heavy equipment be allowed to enter the live stream to conduct such activities. At two sites, the stream end of digger logs will be placed below stream grade to a depth of no greater than two feet. This slight excavation into the streambed will be conducted only by hand. The California Department of Fish and Game is not requiring dewatering of the sites.

Within InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness property, the following treatments will take place: Five previously restored sites will receive maintenance activities intended to correct the damage present as a result of extremely high flow events experienced during the 2002-03 rain season. At all five sites, hand work will be the only method used to conduct restoration activities. Because of the low impact nature of this work, California Department of Fish and Game is not requiring

dewatering of the sites. Most of the activity at these sites will consist of stabilizing previously placed log structures originally constructed through the Department of Fish and Game's Fisheries Restoration Program in 2000.

The project is scheduled to take place between September 16, 2003 and October 15, 2003 during a 21-day work schedule. All project sites will be monitored throughout the subsequent winter to evaluate and photo-document changes at the sites and how each structure performed during winter flows. Project work may have to continue into the next year if access and weather issues require such a delay, and if additional sites are identified and approved for treatment under this permit.

California Department of Fish and Game, as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that this project qualifies for a Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and has approved a 1601 Streambed Alteration Agreement for the project. The United States Army Corps of Engineers may require a permit for this project; the Regional Water Board is not aware of the status at this time.

The Regional Water Board is in the process of reviewing the proposed project regarding the issuance of the 401 Certification Permit. The Regional Water Board will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Lauren Hocker by email at [hockl@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov](mailto:hockl@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov), or send comments to the Regional Water Quality Control Board, 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403.